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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,396	03/31/2004	Benjamin D. McDaniel	51992/AW/W112	9596
23363	7590	07/07/2006	EXAMINER	
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP PO BOX 7068 PASADENA, CA 91109-7068			TOY, ALEX B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3739	
DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/816,396	Applicant(s) MCDANIEL ET AL.	
	Examiner Alex B. Toy	Art Unit 3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5, 6, 8-10, 16 and 23-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7, 11-15 and 17-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is response to applicant's amendment filed on April 20, 2006. The objection to claim 14 is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment. The 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejection of claim 5 is withdrawn in view of applicant's withdrawal of claim 5. All previous prior art rejections are maintained with respect to the examined claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 7, 13, 17-20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Diederich et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,117,101).

Regarding claim 1, Diederich et al. disclose a catheter comprising:

an elongated catheter body 652 having proximal and distal ends and at least one lumen therethrough (Fig. 13);

a three-dimensional ablation assembly 650 at or near the distal end of the catheter body, said assembly having a framework 651 defining a length and a circumference, the assembly movable into a collapsed configuration with a greater length and a lesser circumference and an expanded configuration with a lesser length and a greater circumference, the framework comprising a plurality of tensile members

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interwoven in a manner such that the length increases as the circumference decreases and vice versa (col. 26, ln. 38-44 and Fig. 13);

said assembly also having a ribbon electrode extending along said circumference, said ribbon electrode adapted to move with said framework (col. 27, ln. 12-25); and

an expander 653 attached at or near its end to distal ends of the tensile members 651, the expander being longitudinally moveable relative to the catheter body 652 to expand and collapse the ablation assembly (col. 26, ln. 34-44 and Fig. 13).

Regarding claim 2, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claim 1, wherein said framework of the assembly in the expanded configuration has a first circumference in a first section along its length and a different second circumference in a second section along its length (col. 26, ln. 38-44 and Fig. 13).

Regarding claim 3, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claim 1, wherein the expander 653 extends through the catheter body (col. 26, ln. 26-35), the expander having a proximal end that extends out the proximal end of the catheter, and having a lumen extending therethrough (col. 26, ln. 34-44 and Fig. 13). Since the expander 653 is used to expand the ablation assembly, it must inherently have a proximal end that extends out the proximal end of the catheter body so that the user can actuate it.

Regarding claim 4, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claim 1, wherein the expander 653 extends through at least a distal portion of the catheter body 652 (col. 26, ln. 26-44 and Fig. 13)

Regarding claim 7, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claim 1, wherein the expander is moved proximally to actuate the assembly into the expanded configuration (Fig. 13).

Regarding claim 13, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claims 1 and 3, wherein the expander has a proximal end attached to a control handle. Since the expander is used to actuate the assembly expansion, the expander must inherently have a control handle to allow the user to actuate the expander.

Regarding claim 17, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claims 1 and 3, wherein the expander 653 is generally coaxial with the catheter body 652 (Fig. 13).

Regarding claim 18, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claims 1 and 3, wherein the expander 653 forms the axis of the assembly 650 (Fig. 13).

Regarding claim 19, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claim 1, wherein the assembly 650 comprises at least four tensile members 651 (Fig. 13).

Regarding claim 20, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claim 1, wherein each tensile member 651 comprises an internal flexible wire and a non-conductive covering over the flexible wire (col. 27, ln. 5-6 and Fig. 13).

Regarding claim 22, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claim 1, wherein the ribbon electrode is elastic (col. 27, ln. 12-25).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 11-12, 14, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diederich et al. ('101) in view of Webster, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,772,590).

Regarding claim 11, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claims 1 and 3, wherein the expander comprises a tube (col. 26, ln. 34-36). The claim differs from Diederich et al. in calling for the expander to comprise plastic tubing. Webster, Jr., however, teaches an expandable electrode catheter with an expander 56 comprising plastic tubing (col. 9, ln. 12-13 and Fig. 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the expander of Diederich et al. comprise plastic tubing in view of the teaching of Webster, Jr. because plastic is an obvious alternate material for constructing tubes that is well-known in the art.

Regarding claim 12, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claims 1 and 3, wherein the expander comprises a tube (col. 26, ln. 34-36). The claim differs from Diederich et al. in calling for the expander to comprise braided plastic tubing. Webster, Jr., however, teaches an expandable electrode catheter with tube 7 comprising braided plastic tubing (col. 5, ln. 13-16 and Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the expander of Diederich et al. comprise braided plastic tubing in view of the teaching of Webster, Jr. because braided plastic is an obvious alternate material for constructing tubes that is generally known in the art (pg. 14 of applicant's specification).

Regarding claim 14, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claims 1, 3, and 13. The claim differs from Diederich et al. in calling for the control handle to comprise:

a handle housing having proximal and distal ends, and a piston having a proximal end mounted in the distal end of the handle housing and a distal end fixedly attached to the proximal end of the catheter body;

wherein the proximal end of the expander is fixedly attached, directly or indirectly, to the handle housing so that longitudinal movement of the piston relative to the handle housing results in longitudinal movement of the expander relative to the catheter body to thereby expand and collapse the assembly.

Webster, Jr. ('590), however, teaches an expandable electrode catheter with a control handle 50 (Fig. 9) comprising the handle of U.S. Pat. No. 4,960,134 also to Webster, Jr. (incorporated by reference into Webster, Jr. '590).

With reference to Webster, Jr. ('134), the control handle 13 comprises:

a handle housing 40 having proximal and distal ends, and a piston 46 having a proximal end mounted in the distal end of the handle housing and a distal end fixedly attached to the proximal end of the catheter body 11 (col. 4, ln. 45-49 and Fig. 4);

With reference to Webster, Jr. ('590), the control handle 50 comprises an expander 54, wherein the proximal end of the expander is fixedly attached, directly or indirectly, to the handle housing so that longitudinal movement of the piston relative to the handle housing results in longitudinal movement of the expander relative to the catheter body to thereby expand and collapse the assembly (col. 8, ln. 61 – col. 9, ln. 7 and Figs. 9-10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the control handle of Diederich et al. to comprise the control handle of Webster, Jr. ('590/'134) in view of Webster, Jr. ('590) as an obvious way to expand the tensile members of Diederich et al. that is known in the art.

Regarding claim 21, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claims 1 and 20. Diederich et al. further disclose that the internal flexible wire of each wire comprises a superelastic metal alloy, such as an alloy of nickel and titanium, or a combination of both (col. 26, ln. 63-65). The claim differs in calling for the internal flexible wire of each wire to comprise nitinol – a specific type of nickel and titanium alloy. Webster, Jr. ('590), however, teaches an expandable electrode catheter, wherein the tensile member wires comprise nitinol (col. 6, ln. 27-38). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the internal

flexible wire of Diederich et al. from nitinol in view of the teaching of Webster, Jr. ('590) because nitinol is an obvious specific type of nickel and titanium alloy that is well-known in the art.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diederich et al. in view of Webster, Jr. ('590) in view of Edwards et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,471,982) and further in view of Webster, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,183,463 B1).

Regarding claim 15, Diederich et al. disclose the catheter of claims 1, 3, and 13. Diederich et al. also disclose the catheter of claim 14 in view of Webster, Jr. ('590). The claim differs from Diederich et al. in calling for the proximal end of the expander to extend outside the proximal end of the control handle and through a support tube.

Edwards et al. teach an expandable electrode catheter, wherein fluid is introduced to the point of ablation through the expander tube 240 to keep the electrodes free of tissue buildup and blood (col. 19, ln. 50 – col. 20, ln. 2 and Figs. 12 and 26). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included fluid introduction through the expander tube of Diederich et al. in view of the teaching of Edwards et al. to keep the electrodes free of tissue buildup and blood.

Webster, Jr. ('463) teaches an electrode catheter, comprising the piston control handle of Webster, Jr. ('590/'134) with a fluid introduction tube 88 that starts at the distal electrode end and then extends outside the proximal end of the control handle and

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through a support tube 91 (col. 8, ln. 18-26, col. 9, ln. 7-26, and Figs. 1-4). Fluid is introduced through the luer hub 90 (col. 8, ln. 33-39 and Fig. 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the proximal end of the expander/fluid introduction tube of Diederich et al. in view of Edwards et al. to extend outside the proximal end of the control handle of Diederich et al. in view of Webster, Jr. ('590/'134) and through a support tube further in view of the teaching of Webster, Jr. ('463) as an obvious alternate way of introducing fluid that is known in the art for use with the control handle of Webster, Jr. ('590/'134).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 20, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding independent claim 1, applicant argues that core 653 is not longitudinally moveable relative to the catheter body to expand and collapse the ablation assembly. Applicant further argues that only the sheath 652 controls the expansion and collapse of the expandable cage 650. Diederich, however, specifically discloses that "core 653 is slideable within sheath 652" (col. 26, ln. 34-35) and further shows an arrow located on the proximal end of core 653 to indicate movement. Therefore, the core 653 is inherently capable of being longitudinally moveable relative to the catheter body to expand and collapse the ablation assembly.

In addition, even if Diederich did not specifically disclose such movement, the movement of the sheath 653 with respect to the core 653 (and vice versa) is all relative. If the sheath can be pulled back to expand the cage, then it is inherently possible to hold the sheath stationary and push the core forward to expand the cage.

Regarding claims 11-12, 14, and 21, applicant argues that it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the pull wire of Webster ('590) to expand and collapse a basket electrode assembly. First, the core of Diederich is inherently capable of controlling the expanding and collapsing of the basket electrode. (See the response regarding claim 1.) Second, the examiner is not suggesting that the core of Diederich be directly replaced by the pull wire of Webster ('590). Rather, the examiner maintains that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a pull wire as an alternate way of expanding a basket electrode assembly because pull wires are well-known in the art. As previously cited, Edwards, Chilson, and Beatty all show pull wires to expand and collapse a basket electrode. Webster ('590) and Chilson further show that it is known to expand a basket electrode either with or without a pull wire.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex B. Toy whose telephone number is (571) 272-1953. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AT *AT*
6/26/06

Michael Peffley
MICHAEL PEFFLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER